

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 OC-06 CCO-00

L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 /057 W

-----271943Z 015795 /45

P R 271542Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9992

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONGEN FRANKFURT

USMISSION BRUSSELS

UNCLAS MADRID 3243

DEPARTMENT PASS TRANSPORTATION/NTSB (DREIFUS), BRUSSELS,
PARIS AND FRANKFURT FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS; EAIR, SP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-PANAM/KLM DISASTER AT TENERIFE: COPYING OF TOWER TAPE

1. AT REQUEST OF SPANISH AIR MINISTRY (SUBSECRETARIAT OF CIVIL AVIATION) EMBOFF APRIL 26 WITNESSED OPENING OF PACKAGE WHICH SPANISH OFFICIALS CERTIFIED CONTAINED TOWER TAPES FROM TENERIFE. EMBOFF, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF DUTCH EMBASSY MADRID AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATION OF CIVIL AVIATION ACCIDENTS, THEN WITNESSED MAKING OF COPIES OF TAPE AND RESEALING OF ORIGINAL. ONE COPY OF TAPE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, NTSB, FOR DREIFUS (REGISTRY NUMBER 3127657). COPY OF CERTIFICATE, SIGNED BY WITNESSES AT APRIL 26 MEETING, INCLUDED WITH TAPE (EMBASSY RETAINING ORIGINAL IN FILES).

2. SPANISH PRESS APRIL 27 REPORTED THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS DENIED RECEIVING ANY
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NOTIFICATION OF LEGAL ACTION AGAINST GOS WITH REGARD ACCIDENT. ACCORDING TO US PRESS REPORTS, SUIT HAS BEEN BROUGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL COURT BY WALTER MICHAEL WATT, SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR ESTATE OF JEAN HOUSTON, ONE OF VICTIMS OF ACCIDENT, AGAINST SPANISH GOVERNMENT ALONG WITH PAN AM AND KLM. ALL THREE ARE REPORTEDLY ACCUSED OF NEGLIGENCE IN CASE.

3. COMMENT: MINISTRY (SCA) ACTION PROBABLY PROMPTED BY REQUEST FROM DUTCH (BOTH KLM AND CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS) FOR COPY OF TOWER TAPE. AS FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE NO REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE BY US AUTHORITIES, BUT SPANISH CONCERNED THAT ALL PARTIES RECEIVE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE (WE UNDERSTAND THAT SECOND COPY OF TAPE MAY BE SENT DIRECTLY TO NTSB/DREIFUS). DUTCH EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES AND KLM HAD ASKED FOR ALL TOWER TAPES FOR TWO-THREE DAYS PRIOR TO ACCIDENT IN ORDER TO STUDY PATTERN OF TRANSMISSIONS. GENERAL MONTEL (SCA) STATED THAT SPANISH HAVE SO FAR DECLINED TO PROVIDE THESE TAPES SINCE GOS VIEWS THEM AS IRRELEVANT TO INVESTIGATION. AT CONCLUSION OF TAPE-COPYING SESSION EMBOFF AND DUTCH EMBASSY REP WERE ASKED TO MEET WITH MINISTRY OF AIR LEGAL AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST IN REPLYING TO LETTERS FROM SEVERAL DUTCH CITIZENS AND FROM PAN AMERICAN. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR MADRID PAN AM REP TO DISCUSS LETTER FROM HIS COMPANY SO MINISTRY OF AIR LAWYERS AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Review Release Date: n/a
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